C. Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1-13 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A tread ~~(1, 101)~~ for a pneumatic tire, defined laterally by lateral faces ~~(4, 104 and 5, 105)~~ connecting radially inner and outer faces ~~(2, 102 and 3, 103)~~ together, said tread ~~(1, 101)~~ being comprised of an electrically insulating material, ~~characterized in that~~ said tread ~~has~~ having at least one conductive layer ~~(10, 110)~~ ~~arranged to substantially connect said lateral faces (4, 104 and 5, 105) together~~, said conductive layer ~~(10, 110)~~ having a resistivity ~~less~~ lower than that of said insulating material, ~~which is~~ wherein said insulating material is ~~radially~~ provided radially on both sides ~~(11, 111 and 12, 112)~~ of said conductive layer, and wherein said conductive layer extends circumferentially through ~~(10, 110) in~~ said tread ~~(1, 101)~~.

2. (currently amended) The tread ~~(1)~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said at least one conductive layer has edges and wherein the edges are provided at a distance from at least one of said lateral faces to provide at least one interruption in the conductive layer ~~(10) substantially connects said lateral faces (4 and 5) together, such that it is interrupted opposite at least one of said lateral faces~~.

3. (currently amended) The tread ~~(1)~~ according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said at least one conductive layer has a plurality of interruptions

formed by circumferential grooves ~~(10) substantially connects said lateral faces (4 and 5), so such that it is interrupted opposite said radially inner and outer faces (2 and 3)~~.

4. (currently amended) The tread ~~(1, 101)~~ according to Claim 1, ~~or~~ 2 or 3, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said at least one conductive layer ~~(10, 110)~~ is substantially parallel to said outer face ~~(3, 103)~~.

5. (currently amended) The tread ~~(1, 101)~~ according to Claim 1, ~~or~~ 2 or 3, wherein the tread ~~characterized in that it~~ comprises a single conductive layer ~~(10, 110)~~ provided at a distance from one or the other of said inner and outer faces ~~(2, 102 and 3, 103)~~ which is greater than or equal to one-quarter the thickness of said tread ~~(1, 101)~~.

6. (currently amended) The tread ~~(1, 101)~~ according to Claim 5, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said distance is equal to half the thickness of said tread ~~(1, 101)~~.

7. (currently amended) The tread ~~(1, 101)~~ according to Claim 1, ~~or~~ 2 or 3, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the resistivity of said conductive layer ~~(10, 110)~~ is less than or equal to 10^8 Ω.cm, the resistivity of the said insulating material being greater than or equal to 10^8 Ω.cm.

8. (currently amended) The tread ~~(1, 101)~~ according to Claim 1, ~~or~~ 2 or 3, wherein ~~characterized in that it~~ further comprising ~~comprises~~ at least one conductive strip

or film ~~(114, 114', 114a, 114b)~~, which is provided to connect the said inner and outer faces ~~(102, 103)~~ together electrically.

9. (currently amended) The tread ~~(101)~~ according to Claim 8, wherein the tread ~~characterized in that it~~ comprises two conductive strips or films ~~(114)~~ which are respectively provided at the locations of said lateral faces ~~(104 and 105)~~.

10. (currently amended) The tread ~~(101)~~ according to Claim 9, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said strips or films ~~(114)~~ are extended respectively on said outer face ~~(103)~~ by two electrically conductive circumferential peripheral bands ~~(115)~~.

11. (currently amended) The tread ~~(101)~~ according to Claim 8, further comprising ~~characterized in that it comprises, between said lateral faces (104 and 105)~~, at least one electrically conductive film ~~(114')~~ which connects said inner and outer faces ~~(102 and 103)~~ together, wherein said at least one electrically conductive film is provided between said lateral faces.

12. (currently amended) The tread ~~(101)~~ according to Claim 8, further comprising ~~characterized in that it comprises~~, ~~firstly,~~ at least one inner conductive strip ~~(114a)~~ connecting said at least one conductive layer ~~(110)~~ to said radially inner face ~~(102)~~

and, at least one external conductive strip ~~(114b)~~ connecting said at least one conductive layer ~~(110)~~ to said radially outer face ~~(103)~~.

13. (currently amended) A tire~~,~~ comprising ~~characterized in that it contains~~ a tread ~~(1, 101)~~ according to Claim 1~~,or~~ 2 or 3.